

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1** Secretary's Council reviews library issues, continuing education
- 3** LSTA Grants for Missouri Libraries
State Library's Winter Institute a Success
- 5** Gates Foundation Staying Connected: An Update
Virtually Missouri Update
- 6** Missouri Library News
- 7** Personal Notes
- 8** LibraryU now open

Robin Carnahan Appoints Margaret Conroy New State Librarian

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan has appointed Margaret Conroy as Missouri's new state librarian.

Conroy has extensive experience directing local libraries in Missouri. Prior to accepting the position of state librarian, Conroy served as the director of the Missouri River Regional Library in Jefferson City and previously directed the Little Dixie Regional Library in Moberly. A past president of the Missouri Library Association, Conroy has been active among Missouri librarians and sits on the boards of MLNC and MOREnet, state programs aimed at connecting local libraries to electronic resources and ensuring patrons of public libraries have access to high-speed Internet.

"Our local libraries are community centers where people can access information and resources like never before," said Carnahan. "As a former Missouri library director, Margaret knows the needs and challenges faced by Missouri's local libraries, and she will serve Missourians well as an effective advocate for library services."

Conroy is an active member of the Jefferson City Rotary Club, Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce Governmental Relations Committee, River City Habitat for Humanity and the Ashland Optimist Club.

Conroy received her bachelor's degree from Quincy University and a degree in library science from Dominican University in Illinois. She also has a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"I am pleased by the opportunity to serve Missourians as state librarian and to help increase access to library services across the state," said Conroy. "I look forward to working with Secretary Carnahan,

Missouri's local libraries, school librarians, the academic community, and the patrons of Wolfner Library in order to help enhance our state libraries' services."

Conroy will begin her work as State Librarian on April 17, 2006.

Secretary's Council reviews library issues, continuing education

The Secretary's Council on Library Development held their first meeting of 2006 on February 24 in Jefferson City. The meeting began with the introduction and welcome of Margaret Conroy as the new state librarian. Melissa Carr chaired the meeting, which focused first on legislative updates. Mark Reading, Executive Deputy Secretary of State, reported State Library and MOREnet appropriations were proceeding through committees without changes to the figures proposed in the Governor's budget.

Paul White, Mid-Continent Consolidated Library director, and Sallie Hancox, Scenic Regional Library director, led a discussion of the effect of tax abatements on tax income of public libraries. Several proposals are under consideration by the legislature, with expectation of some action on eminent domain and tax increment financing.

Hancox then led a discussion of RSMo 182.480, which established municipal library districts and their boundaries. She described the circumstances which led to the legislation in which the city of Ferguson annexed an area of the St. Louis County Library, including a branch facility. A court ruled that taxpayers within the annexed area should pay library tax to both the St. Louis County Library and Ferguson library. The legislation resolved the issue by setting the library district boundaries at their status as of October 1965. Hancox presented various options used by the affected library districts to provide services for residents of county

newsl ine (ISSN 1088-680X) is published monthly by the Library Development Division of the Missouri State Library, PO Box 387, Jefferson City, MO 65102; telephone 800-325-0131 in Missouri or 573-751-2680; fax 573-751-3612.

Contents of **newsl ine** may be reprinted with reference given to the publication and its date of issue.

The Missouri State Library is a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State

Jason Ramsey
Editor

Michaela Hansen
Editor

Krista Myer
Director of Publications

Julie Stegeman
Graphic Designer



Check out **newsl ine online** (ISSN 1088-7237) at www.sos.mo.gov/library/newsl ine/newsl ine.asp

library districts within city limits of a neighboring library district. These include waiving nonresident fees or payments between districts for use of library services. A few small districts have merged into the adjacent county district, including Pierce City, Holden, Crane and Eldon. This is the first time legislation has been proposed to address this issue. HB 1164 addresses the Sikeston/Scott County/New Madrid County area, but at this time is not expected to move out of committee. Council discussed the various local aspects of this issue across the state.

In the afternoon, Jason Stirnaman of Reference Services presented a demonstration of *Keeping Up Online*, the new online version of the clipping service previously provided only to state legislators and state agencies. The online version, available at www.sos.mo.gov/library/reference/keeping_uponline/ provides links to that day's newspaper articles on statewide issues.

Richard Smith, Director of Wolfner Library, presented an overview of plans for the 75th Anniversary of Wolfner Library, which was held March 1 in the atrium of the Kirkpatrick Information Center.

Rita Gulstad, Chair of the State Library Continuing Education Committee, provided an update on the projects and progress of the committee since its formation in 2003. The mission of the CE committee is to consider current provision of library training, identify current needs or gaps, suggest appropriate topics and vehicles to accomplish a coordinated effort statewide and promote unique and innovative continuing education opportunities. In an effort to provide library staff with a basic guide for seeking continuing education, the committee produced a brochure with a grid of topics matched with the potential training provider. The committee has also supported the expansion of the online CE calendar (www.sos.mo.gov/ce_calendar) as a central location for training providers to post upcoming workshops. Library staff can search the calendar by date, topic, location or provider to find available training opportunities.

The committee identified several issues affecting continuing education throughout

the state such as lack of access to training, lack of time and funding for travel and lack of library leadership training. For the last three years the committee has discussed ways to alleviate the gaps and barriers. As a result, several of the major training providers such as MOREnet and the Missouri Library Network Corporation, have begun using Centra, a program that allows real-time video of a live training presentation to be delivered directly to a computer desktop. The Missouri State Library has provided grants for videoconferencing equipment in libraries throughout the state to broadcast live workshops or meetings to various locations at one time. The CE committee also recommended that MOSL conduct a pilot project to test the online tutorials available from the University of North Texas. The State Library sponsored its first online tutorials in September 2005, allowing library staff to log on to a Web site to complete training materials and self-assessments at their own pace and schedule. Based on the evaluation responses from the online tutorial participants, the majority considered the tutorials to be helpful and 97% said they would take another online tutorial. The State Library has now purchased 300 "seats" for additional tutorials throughout 2006.

Brenda Sites, a continuing education consultant at the State Library, presented an overview of MOSL's multi-faceted training plan for both the current and upcoming fiscal years. In order to best meet the training needs of library staff throughout Missouri, the State Library utilizes a variety of resources and tools such as the State CE Committee and online tutorials. Sites specifically highlighted the upcoming training sponsored and coordinated by the State Library. She reviewed a spreadsheet of each project along with the purpose, target date and intended audience of each workshop.

The State Library also supports formal library education through the Scholarship Program for students pursuing a Master's degree in Library Science or School Library Media certification. Sites reported the State Library Scholarship program has supported 45 students since 2003 for a total of almost

\$270,000 in tuition and fees. She reviewed statistics about the scholarship program including the number of students by their current program status, the number of students by area of study, the number of scholarships awarded by school and the number of new scholarships awarded each semester. Upon completion of the graduate program, students agree to a work commitment in a publicly-funded library. Three students have completed their library programs and work commitments. Two of them completed work commitments in public schools and one at an academic library. Eight students are currently completing work commitments. Two of them are library directors and the rest are in professional positions in public libraries or public schools.

LSTA Grants for Missouri Libraries

Here are a few helpful hints for library staff when competing for a grant administered by the State Library:

- If you have never applied before or are applying for a new project or category, contact the appropriate Library Consultant. We want to help you submit a competitive application.
- Make certain that you are using the appropriate project guidelines and application.
- Review the guidelines and make certain that you understand them. Pay close attention to the general rules, required application information and deadlines. Specific categories and applicants may have special requirements. Call the appropriate Library Consultant if you have any questions.
- Gather your information: project plans; project budget; marketing/outreach plans; evaluation plan; attendance/participation records; and demographic information of your organization, audience and local community.
- When writing your narrative, focus on the project to be funded and how it addresses the evaluation criteria. Address all application questions. Write clearly and concisely.

- Double-check all math. Errors may reduce application scores given by the grant review members.
- Assume that the person reading the application knows nothing about your library or community. Have the application and support material reviewed by someone inside and outside your organization for content, clarity, brevity, grammar and accuracy. It should be clear to everyone what the project is, how it will work and why it should be funded.
- For any questions concerning the grant application or administration process, contact:

Diana Very, Library Consultant and LSTA Grants Officer at (573) 526-1256, (800) 325-0131 ext 16 or diana.very@sos.mo.gov.

State Library's Winter Institute a Success

Sixty-seven staff from Missouri's libraries attended the 2006 Library Skills Winter Institute at the Quality Inn in Columbia on February 7–10. The Institute participants had the opportunity to attend dynamic sessions on reference services, library services for older adults and basic library skills.

The basic course provided a four-day overview of library services, including library demographics, circulation, customer service, reference, children's services, collection development and outreach services for adults and seniors. The basic course was presented by a team of instructors from area libraries. Participants in the basic course also received technical training at MOREnet on search engine basics and mining the deep Web. The primary benefit of the basic course was the exposure participants received to all library functions throughout the week.

The advanced course on reference services included collecting and evaluating reference sources, creating an effective reference policy, providing reference services in the information age and mastering the reference interview. Belinda Boon, independent library consultant from Austin, Texas, was



Winter Institute in Columbia, Mo.

the instructor. One portion of the course was hosted by the Columbia Public Library so participants could utilize the computer training lab and reference department for class assignments. The majority of the participants reported a positive experience in this class and a marked increase in their knowledge of reference services.

The advanced course on library services for older adults was led by Allan Kleiman, nationally renowned library trainer and head of the Reference Department for Westfield Memorial Library in Westfield, NJ. His course focused on the needs of older adults in the library and creating programs, services and collections to support those needs. Allan's course provided new programming ideas as well as a wealth of resources for participants from all types and sizes of libraries. Several participants commented that they were pleasantly surprised to find how much new information they could learn about working with seniors in the library.

After a reception on Tuesday evening,

participants had the option of attending an elective class on grant writing or small library issues. At the Wednesday evening dinner, Executive Deputy Secretary of State Mark Reading addressed the group.

The Library Skills Institute continues to be a key component of the State Library's continuing education efforts. By completing courses at the Institute, participants can now earn credits toward an Institute Recognition Program Certificate. Participants completing five credits will receive a Certificate of Achievement. Participants completing all nine credits will receive a Certificate of Excellence.

Summer Institute is scheduled for August 8-11, 2006, in Columbia. The next institute will offer the traditional basic library skills course and advanced skills courses in library administration and library services for young adults. For information on upcoming continuing education events, contact Brenda Sites at the State Library, 800-325-0131, ext. 13.

Gates Foundation Staying Connected: An Update

The Missouri State Library completed the first of a three year implementation for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation “Staying Connected” grant. The State Library has identified three topic areas to spend the \$429,433 – hardware upgrades, training support, and technical support. The State Library upgraded or replaced 246 computers in 75 library buildings and has spent nearly all of the money allocated for this category.

The State Library is partnering with MOREnet, Missouri Library Network Corp. (MLNC), and the Springfield-Greene County Library system to bring an ambitious training schedule to Missouri’s libraries. The State Library used 2005 to focus on upgrading and replacing aged hardware. Our attention now turns to making sure library staffs have the ability to utilize that upgraded equipment. For more information, please visit the State Library’s Continuing Education Web site at www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/events.asp.

The State Library has also partnered with MOREnet to provide technical support to libraries through network assessments, remote vulnerability audit training and on-call technical support. Eleven libraries have received a Network Assessment from MOREnet that will aid in evaluating the library’s ability to serve its patrons’ needs.

The “Staying Connected” grant is also funding training for Remote Vulnerability Audits that will allow MOREnet to test the security of individual libraries’ networks. The actual audits are being funded by a matching grant from the REAL program.

Public libraries owe a lifetime of gratitude to the Gates Foundation for the help they have given. Libraries are now able to better serve their patrons thanks to the generosity of Bill and Melinda Gates. For more information on the Gates Foundation grant, or any other grant available from the State Library, visit our Web site at www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/grants.asp.



Cathy Lanahan, left, and Tammy Paris, of Missouri River Regional Library, peruse reference materials at the Columbia Public Library as part of their group assignment for the Advanced Reference Services class.

Virtually Missouri Update

Since last fall, the Virtually Missouri statewide digitization project has been expanding its outreach to the state’s cultural heritage community via a series of regional meetings. Informally known as “Digitization Road Shows,” the events are planned and organized by the MLNC and the Missouri State Library. The meetings are hosted by institutions that have received digitization grants and successfully completed their project.

The format of the meetings is based on a growing synergy among a number of institutions. The State Library funds the event through its LSTA digitization planning grant to MLNC. MLNC invites participants and makes the arrangements with the local host institution. The local host provides the space, helps with outreach and does a presentation on its grant project. Tracy Byerly, MLNC’s Executive Director, and Carl Wingo, the Virtually Missouri project manager, start the program with overviews of the project, its history and future plans. Then the local host or hosts give their presentations. The last portion of the program involves a round-table discussion, with each organization attending describing their historical materials and asking questions about how to add these to Virtually Missouri. The discussions are structured to allow appraisal and feedback from several historians and archivists, including Gary Kremer, Director at the State Historical Society, directors from the different Western Historical Manuscript Collections, and the State Archive’s field archivists for the region where the meeting takes place.

Please watch *Newsline Extra* for upcoming dates and locations.



Missouri Library News

newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

National Accolades for Kirkwood Public Library Friends

The Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library received the 2006 FOLUSA/Baker & Taylor Award from the Friends of Libraries USA. The Kirkwood Friends competed against about 73 other friends' groups across the country to win the "Outstanding Friends Group Award."

New Warsaw Library Set To Open

Boonslick Regional Library System is set to open the new branch in Warsaw. The opening was scheduled for late February.

Slater Public Library Gets New Home

The State Bank of Slater donated its former building to the City of Slater. The City plans to relocate the Slater Public Library to the donated building.

Rolla Public Library Raises Fees

Cuts in state aid have forced the Rolla Public Library to raise non-resident fees and printing and fax charges. The non-resident fees will increase \$5 and printing charges will increase to 25 cents. Fax charges will increase from 50 cents to \$1.

Naylor Library Expands

The Naylor Library, part of the Doniphan-Ripley County Library, is expanding thanks to the donation of the building next door to the library.

Brunswick Area Library Goes Public

Brunswick City Council members voted to put the Brunswick Area Library in the city budget as a line item. The library plans to apply for state aid certification.

Trails Regional Library Opens At New Site

The Trails Regional Library has reopened at its new site, 432 N. Holden in Warrensburg, with new reading areas, ample seating and natural lighting.

Rock Hill Library Opens At New Site

Rock Hill Library has opened at its new site, 9741 Manchester Road, after moving out of the City Hall building that is slated for demolition.

St. Louis Public Library Offers New Reference Service

The St. Louis Public Library has introduced a new option for patrons to receive reference help – the *Ask A Librarian* online chat service. The new program operates much like an instant messaging service. The service can be accessed from the library's Web site, www.slpl.org.

School and Library Team Up For Parents

The Neosho R-5 School District and the Neosho-Newton County Library have partnered to bring a Parent Resource Center to the public library. The program will give parents the opportunity to help their children in the learning process.

Library Grants Blog Available

A new web log, or blog, is now online that contains a list of grants available to libraries. The blog, <http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/>, is authored by Stephanie Gerding and Pam MacKellar. Gerding is the continuing education coordinator at the Ari-

zona State Library, Archives and Public Records and MacKellar is the assistant librarian at the Corrales Community Library in Corrales, NM. Both have extensive experience in writing and researching grants.

The blog features an easy-to-follow format complete with grant titles, deadlines and Web links for more information. The blog appears to be updated frequently, and should serve as a useful tool for librarians searching for grants to help fund programs and services.

ALA Partners with Baseball



The ALA and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum have teamed up to bring “Step up to the Plate @ Your Library,” a program that partners libraries and baseball to promote literacy. The program officially launches Friday, April 28

at the St. Louis Public Library and Busch Stadium. Libraries may register now for free promotional tools to promote the program.

The “Step up to the Plate @ Your Library” will challenge library users of all ages to step into their library and use its resources to find the answers to baseball trivia questions. The questions were developed by Hall of Fame librarians and are sure to interest - and challenge - all baseball fans. Questions will address five areas – women in baseball; African-Americans in baseball; Hispanics in baseball; Major League Baseball; and ball parks. One winner will win a trip to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, to attend the museum’s World Series Gala event on Saturday, October 21, 2006, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hall of Fame!

Prizes are also awarded to libraries that register early. The first 100 libraries that register will receive a Jackie Robinson History Lives poster. Additional prizes will be given to the library that garners the most entries to the trivia contest.

For more information and to register, visit www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/stepuptotheplateyourlibrary/stepup.htm.



Personal Notes

Dan Wilson retires as director of *St. Louis County Library*. Wilson became director of the library system in 1997, and is only the third director in the system’s 59-year history.

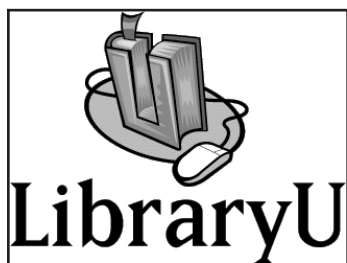
Beth Gilbert started as new director of the *Mountain View Public Library* on January 1. She replaces **Lois Heiney**, who retired in December.

Carolyn Trout retired after 18 years as director of the *Joplin Public Library*. Trout plans to stay involved and consult about library issues and solutions.

Susan Wray started as new director of the *Joplin Public Library* on February 1. She worked prior at the Kansas City Public Library for nine years.

Sara Nielsen started as new director (city librarian) of the *Washington Public Library* on Feb. 6, 2006. Nielsen will be the city’s fifth librarian since the library was founded in 1924. She replaces **Carolyn Witt** who retired in November after 24 years on the job.

Teresa Kinnison is the new director of the *Bethany Public Library*.



LibraryU now open

Missouri library staff now have a new, no cost alternative for online training. LibraryU is free Web-based training for librarians supported cooperatively by the Illinois Library Systems and the Illinois State Library with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of LibraryU is to meet the training and continuing education needs of library staff with effective and online instruction available through the Web anywhere and anytime. Web-based training offers a convenient and less costly alternative to the travel and leave time necessary for other types of training. Training topics include administrative skills, cataloging, community building, customer service, marketing, youth services and topics for trustees.

To take advantage of the LibraryU module offerings, you can self-register for a LibraryU account anytime from any internet connection. Your online learning account can track all of your LibraryU courses and your course history can serve as a valuable part of your career development. You can register for as many courses as you would like and access them when it is most convenient for you.

To find out more information or register for courses, visit www.libraryu.org.

Missouri State Library
PO Box 387
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jefferson City, MO
PERMIT NO. 10